

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 108

By Cooper

A RESOLUTION to commemorate World Sickle Cell Day.

WHEREAS, sickle cell disease is a devastating, inherited blood disorder that affects thousands of people in our State and an estimated 100,000 individuals in the United States; and

WHEREAS, sickle cell disease causes the rapid destruction of sickle cells, which results in multiple medical complications, including anemia, jaundice, gallstones, strokes, restricted blood flow, damaged tissue in the liver, spleen, and kidneys, and death; and

WHEREAS, sickle cell disease causes episodes of considerable pain in the arms, legs, chest, and abdomen of an individual; and

WHEREAS, approximately 1,000 babies are born with sickle cell disease every year in the United States, with the disease occurring in approximately one in every 365 newborn African-American infants and one in every 16,300 newborn Hispanic-American infants, and is found in individuals of Mediterranean, Middle Eastern, Asian, and Indian origin; and

WHEREAS, more than 3,000,000 individuals in the United States have the sickle cell trait and one in thirteen African-Americans carries the trait; and

WHEREAS, there is a one in four chance that a child born to parents who both have the sickle cell trait will have the disease. The life expectancy of an individual with sickle cell disease is often severely limited; and

WHEREAS, while hematopoietic stem cell transplantation is currently the only cure for sickle cell disease and advances in treating the associated complications of sickle cell disease have occurred, more research is needed to find widely available treatments and cures to help patients with sickle cell disease; and

WHEREAS, in Tennessee, the Sickle Cell Foundation is working to improve the quality of life for those fighting sickle cell disease by providing sickle cell counseling, screening, education, emotional support, and financial support to the patients and their families; and

WHEREAS, annually since 2008, the United Nations has recognized June 19th as World Sickle Cell Day to increase awareness and educate citizens around the globe about sickle cell disease; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby join with the Sickle Cell Foundation as it commemorates June 19, 2017, as World Sickle Cell Day in Tennessee and applaud its efforts to raise public awareness of preventative care programs, treatments, and other patient services for those suffering from sickle cell disease.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.